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HOLTREY.**

The Indiana Broadband Office has been hard at work traveling, attending webinars and learning about upcoming federal funds that will be coming to Indiana through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

Recently, IBO assisted Jodi Golden, State Infrastructure Coordinator, and Roberto Gallardo, Purdue Center of Regional Development in preparing an application to create a State Digital Equity Plan (DE). This grant program is a \$60M formula grant program for states, territories and tribal governments to develop digital equity plans that promote digital equity and inclusion. They aim to ensure that all people and communities have the skills, technology and capacity needed to reap the full benefits of our digital economy.

Our office also assisted in the preparation of the letter of intent to participate in the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD) which provides \$42.45 billion to expand high-speed internet access by funding planning, infrastructure deployment and adoption programs. As the state prepares to apply for BEAD and DE funding, we will be tasked with creating a state 5-year plan of how we will use these funds to connect each Indiana resident who is currently lacking affordable, reliable internet connectivity. Public engagement will be a primary component of the BEAD and DE state plans.

To learn more about the BEAD program, review the PDF linked below.
<https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/BEAD%20NOFO.pdf>.

In preparation, we encourage local leaders to review the IBO steps to success documents. To review, please visit www.in.gov/indianabroadband/steps-to-success.

In the next few months, we will be in touch with stakeholders and partners to discuss what our local engagement efforts will look like across the State.